

June 10, 2007 (SS)

**BEARING THE DIVINE IMAGE IN THE HOME:  
FRUITFUL MULTIPLICATION::  
DEVELOPING GIRLS FOR GLORY  
PROVERBS 31:10-31**

**Preliminary Remarks: (1) Daddies and Daughters**

The man of the house is the head of the house. This relationship of headship is found primarily in his relationship with his wife, but it also extends to all that extends from that relationship; i.e., children.

As *priest* the daddy is to guard, purify and maintain his daughter's purity. This is not restricted to sexual purity, although it most certainly includes it. She is to be guarded, purified and maintained in every area of life where sin might pollute her.

Daddies are also *kings* to their daughters. He is to help subdue the domineering spirit that she has because of sin and teach/model servant kingship to her. In doing this she is aided in avoiding abusive men or in wanting to avoid men altogether.

Daddy is to act as prophet, priest and king to his daughter. As *prophet* daddy is supposed to be teaching/modeling God's word to his daughter so that she will love God with her total self-heart, soul, mind, strength. Therefore his daughters are to be *educated*.

I'll note more about this later, but loving God with all of your *mind* means, at least in part, learning as much about God's world as possible. It is learning to see God's glory in all of life/all of creation. There is no area of life that God's word does not cover, so daddy-prophets are responsible for the education of their daughters (though this will take different forms than education with sons; remember: boys and girls are different and have different tasks for which they need to be educated).

God created the woman *for* the man the Scripture says (cf. Gen 2:18ff; 1Cor 11:9). She needs to know how a man is supposed to relate to a woman *properly* from her daddy. She will learn it. But she needs to learn the proper relationship.

**(2) Mommies and Daughters** - In Titus 2:3-5 Paul speaks about older women teaching younger women in the church. The first and primary older woman/younger woman relationship begins with mother and daughter.

Mothers will teach their daughters in word and deed what it means to be a woman ... for good or ill. Mothers will model before their daughters how a woman is supposed to look. She will learn how to relate to other men, her husband, other women and the world around her by the way her mommy relates to them.

**1. REARING GLORY**

Cf. 1Cor 11:7 - the woman is the glory of the man.

*Glory* is essentially *the radiance of something or someone that beautifies, honors and/or adorns*.

*Glory as position* - Not something they will strive to attain. They *will be* the glory of their husbands; for honor or shame.

What we are striving to do as parents is to fulfill her position in such a way as to glorify her husband properly and, therefore, glorify God by her actions. We want her to properly reflect the image of God *as a woman*.

*Glory as responsibility* - This responsibility to be her husband's glory entails how she lives *before* her marriage and *in* her marriage. We cannot expect our daughters to be godly adult women all of the sudden when they have not been trained to be so in their early years. What we do with our daughters now forms them into what they will be in marriage.

Character of godly woman, a woman that honors her husband (Pr 31:23), found in Prov 31:10-31.

An excellent wife is *priceless* (10). Her worth cannot be measured. She is invaluable. You want to develop her so that she is an asset to him rather than a liability. She is a wife who exalts him, brings him glory, instead of bringing him down.

She needs to understand that her value to her husband and ultimately her glorifying of God is determined by how her life is conformed to God's word.

Shapes our parenting: she will not be allowed to manipulate us sinfully as daddies into always getting what she wants. We know that is destructive. And we do not want to destroy a priceless treasure and devalue her worth to her future husband. We will care

about what she watches, reads and who her friends are.

She is to be **trustworthy**. There is no fear of disloyalty or foolishness in her. They must learn to be *honest*. And so, when they lie we correct them, and we do not flinch when they try to sweet talk their way out of it. Also means that she learns to be *stable*. That is, she is not flighty. She is not an emotional basket-case. She has learned self-control over her emotions. Also means that our daughters should be trained to have *abilities*. We must train our daughters in particular areas so that when a task is left to her, she can accomplish it. Also includes *loyalty*. We must train our daughters in the virtues of commitment. You cannot trust someone who is not loyal. She must learn what “covenant” means before God and in relationship with others.

She is to be **industrious** (13-19, 24, 27). Laziness or sloth is just as reprehensible in a daughter as it is in a son. Our daughters must learn that it is not lady-like in the biblical worldview to sit around and eat bon-bons all day, watch the daily programming on T.V. or simply talk on the phone all day. They must learn that industriousness characterizes the godly lady. So, they must be made to work.

She is to be **benevolent** (20). She is not stingy with her things. This begins by learning to share. Learning hospitality. She learns to be *genuinely compassionate*. She is *interruptible*.

She is to **care for her own family** (21, 27). Our daughters must learn that they will have a responsibility to care for their own households one day. And they need to learn to do this well. This will involve things like cleaning house, sewing, ironing, etc.

She is to **adorn herself** (22). She beautifies herself with clothing and things that will make her attractive. She is to learn what beauty is.

She is to be **strong and honorable** (25). This is not the fearful little woman. She is a woman of faith and courage.

She is to be **wise** (26). Learning wisdom is a life-long process. But that life-long process begins when our daughters are very young. She must learn what wisdom is by learning the fear of the Lord. Learn how to make wise decisions.

She must learn that she will be **honored by the work of her hands** (28-31). Our daughters must be taught that they cannot expect to reap from fields they haven't sown in. The only way they are going to enjoy a harvest is if they work.

## 2. REARING A HELPER

**Helper as position** - She is a helper (cf. Ge 2:18). Must be trained to be a good helper.

**Helper as responsibility** - Learn to *love* in general and *love her husband* in particular. This is the instruction of Paul in Titus 2 concerning the responsibilities of young wives. She will learn this from the way mother relates to father.

Must also learn **submission**. They must learn that there is a difference between biblical submission and submitting to abuse. They must learn that no one on earth is an absolute authority, but that all authority resides in God himself and is delegated to particular people. And while she must submit to her husband when he is within his Scriptural bounds, she is not bound to submit to him when he is outside of those parameters.

Must learn **respect**. They must be trained to respect authority whether they agree or disagree. And they will learn this by how mommy treats daddy when she speaks to him and the way she acts toward him.

Must learn to **manage a home**. This involves many of things I mentioned earlier about cooking, cleaning, finances, organization, etc. And again, this means that our daughters must be *educated*. It takes knowledge and wisdom to manage a home. They must know how to do it well.

Must learn about **child-bearing** and **child-rearing**. This will involve teaching them the proper context of both. They must learn about sex and its God-given context of marriage as being the only proper time for child-bearing.

Pregnancy and children are to be rejoiced in within the proper context (i.e., marriage).